Come together

SUNDAY Plus

6 SEPTEMBER 2026

23rd Sunday in Ordinary Time **Divine Office Week III** Year A

Season of Creation

Give thanks

St Francis lifted up his eyes… and entering into the field, he began to preach to the birds which were on the ground, and suddenly all those also on the trees came round him, and all listened while St Francis preached to them, and did not fly away until he had given them his blessing… Now the substance of the sermon was this: "My little sisters the birds, you owe much to God, your Creator, and you ought to sing his praise at all times and in all places, because he has given you liberty to fly about into all places; and though you neither spin nor sew, he has given you a twofold and a threefold clothing for yourselves and for your offspring. Two of all your species he sent into the Ark with Noah that you might not be lost to the world; besides which, he feeds you, though you neither sow nor reap. He has given you fountains and rivers to quench your thirst, mountains and valleys in which to take refuge, and trees in which to build your nests; so that your Creator loves you much, having thus favoured you with such bounties. Beware, my little sisters, of the sin of ingratitude, and study always to give praise to God." As he said these words, all the birds began to open their beaks, to stretch their necks, to spread their wings and reverently to bow their heads to the ground, endeavouring by their motions and by their songs to manifest their joy to St Francis.

Brother Ugolino (*c.* 1262 – *c.* 1348),
Little Flowers of St Francis

Coming together as friends, as brothers and sisters, in community, in a parish, in an experience of living our faith together, we can find that the Lord's grace… can give us the strength that we need.

Pope Leo XIV

A parish reminder

Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which he looks compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good.
Yours are the hands through which he blesses all the world.
Yours are the hands, yours are the feet, yours are the eyes,
you are his body.
Christ has no body now on earth but yours.

Attributed to St Teresa of Avila

Lord, bring us together in love and thankfulness. May our hearts be open to your Holy Spirit, guiding our steps towards peace, compassion, and shared hope. ✝ Amen.

Feast of the week
Tuesday 8 September

The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Mary's birth marks the dawn of hope, the beginning of God's plan to live among us. She is born not into grandeur but into simplicity, reminding us that holiness often begins in hidden places.

Mary's life is a testament to grace received and grace lived. From her first breath she was prepared to say "yes" to God – a yes that would change the world. Her birth invites us to reflect on our own beginnings: the gifts we've been given, the call we've received, and the quiet ways God is shaping us for his purpose.

As we celebrate Mary's birthday, let us ask for her intercession: that we, too, may be bearers of Christ in our world. May her humility, courage, and faith inspire us to trust in God's unfolding plan.

READINGS

Today:
Ezekiel 33:7-9
Romans 13:8-10
Matthew 18:15-20

Monday:
1 Corinthians 5:1-8
Luke 6:6-11

Tuesday:
Micah 5:1-4
Matthew 1:1-16. 18-23

Wednesday:
1 Corinthians 7:25-31
Luke 6:20-26

Thursday:
1 Corinthians 8:1-7. 11-13
Luke 6:27-38

Friday:
1 Corinthians 9:16-19. 22-27
Luke 6:39-42

Saturday:
1 Corinthians 10:14-22
Luke 6:43-49

Next Sunday:
Ecclesiasticus 27:30 – 28:7
Romans 14:7-9
Matthew 18:21-35

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